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17 November 1953

Memorandum for: AD/NE  
Via Mr. Webb, Mr. Borel

Subject: O/NE Participation in High Level CIA Briefings

1. O/CI has been given primary responsibility for briefing not only CIA personnel (from the DCI down to the intelligence analyst level), but also selected groups outside the Agency. In some of the briefings prepared by O/CI, the nature of the material under discussion can be limited by O/CI itself; for example, the briefings presented in the Situation Room can easily be confined to matters of current intelligence. On the other hand, when O/CI briefs the DCI for his intelligence roundup to the NSC, or when O/CI briefs the White House staff, situations inevitably arise in which the O/CI briefers are diverted from matters of current intelligence to matters clearly falling into the estimative category. Under such circumstances it is obviously impossible for the O/CI representative to (decline from "estimating".)

2. Moreover, <sup>if</sup> the NSC and the White House staff are to be given a complete intelligence briefing on a given area, they should be exposed to relevant National Intelligence Estimates (whether such estimates are published or in preparation) as well as to current intelligence. Under present arrangements, high level audiences are either not given the entire intelligence picture with respect to an area, or are exposed to estimative briefings which are inadequate or in conflict with coordinated NIE's .

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3. In many cases certain newly published NIE's should be used as the basis for briefing the NSC or the White House staff. Such briefings would serve as a useful vehicle for disseminating the conclusions of key coordinated estimates.

4. For these reasons we believe that coordinated intelligence prepared by O/NE and the IAC agencies should be used as an integral part of the high level briefing process. There are three recommended approaches to this problem. These are not mutually exclusive and, in fact, may all be applicable depending on the circumstances.

a. An O/NE representative could give a preliminary briefing to the O/CI briefer. This preliminary briefing would refresh the O/CI analyst on the estimates contained in relevant published NIE's, and would inform him of tentative estimates contained in NIE's under way.

b. An O/NE representative could sit "in reserve" at high level briefings and answer questions which fall into the category of estimates rather than current intelligence.

c. An O/NE representative could participate in the briefing and offer the estimative portion of the presentation.

Of the three recommendations, solution "c" appears to offer the most promise, although there may be instances in which either of the other two would be more appropriate.

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5. It should be noted that O/NE participation in these high level briefings would in no way impinge on O/CI's primary responsibility for briefings. O/NE's responsibility would be of the same nature as that of O/SI - namely to deal with those aspects of high level briefings in which it had peculiar competence and interest. It is believed that O/NE's participation could be worked out with little additional burden on the staff.

6. It is suggested that this general problem be discussed with the DD/I and that the proposals outlined in the paragraph above be presented to him as a basis for dealing with the problem.

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